

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning page 16, lines 6-18 as follows:

An order itself may be viewed as one or more order items (typically, corresponding to a particular product). In certain cases, it may be necessary to split a customer order among the multiple fulfillers, based on order items. Fig. 4B illustrates this concept. There, the order has been split into two order items, Ol_1 and Ol_2 , in effect, two suborders. As shown, the order has been split by having one fulfiller, F_1 , fulfill Ol_1 , while a second fulfiller, F_2 , fulfills Ol_2 . The VP_i vector, which extends into the third dimension (z axis), is potentially employed in such instances. The VP_i vector allows tracking of what part of an order -- specifically, what order item -- was split and to which fulfiller it was split to. Fig. 4C illustrates this concept. Suppose an order consists of three order items: a 5x7 reprint of a dog photograph (product type of P_1), a 5x7 reprint of a cat photograph (also product type of P_1), and a coffee mug embossed with a bird photograph (product type of P_2). To track that fulfiller F_1 is to fulfill the order items of type P_1 , Ol_1 and Ol_2 are entered in the VP_i vector that is indexed by F_1 and P_1 . Similarly, that fulfiller F_2 is to fulfill the order items of type P_2 , Ol_3 is entered in the VP_i vector that is indexed by F_2 and P_2 .